

**MINUTES OF THE  
PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

**TUESDAY, MAY 8, 2007**

At a meeting of the **Planning and Economic Development Committee**, held Tuesday, May 8, 2007, in the Board Room, on the 9<sup>th</sup> Floor of the Administration Building, Mount Clemens, the following members were present:

Vosburg-Chair, Brdak, Brown, DeSaele, DiMaria, Duzyj, Gieleghem, Haggerty, Mijac, Rengert, Roberts and Crouchman (ex-officio).

Absent and excused were Camphous-Peterson and Drolet.

**Other Commissioners Also Present:**

Commissioner Bruley  
Commissioner David Flynn

There being a quorum of the committee present, Chair Vosburg called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**AGENDA**

**MOTION**

A motion was made by Duzyj, supported by Rengert, to adopt the agenda, as amended (to include item #12A). **The Motion Carried.**

**MINUTES**

**MOTION**

A motion was made by Haggerty, supported by Rengert, to approve the March 13, 2007 minutes of this committee, as written. **The Motion Carried.**

Chair Vosburg skipped items #6, #7, and #8 since the recipients were not present. There were no objections.

**AUTHORIZE BOARD CHAIR TO EXECUTE THE 2007 ANNUAL PLAN FOR THE URBAN COUNTY OF MACOMB AND SUBMIT SAME TO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT ON MAY 25, 2007**

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION – MOTION**

A MOTION WAS MADE BY HAGGERTY, SUPPORTED BY RENGERT, TO RECOMMEND THAT THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AUTHORIZE THE BOARD CHAIR TO EXECUTE THE 2007 ANNUAL PLAN FOR THE URBAN COUNTY OF MACOMB AND SUBMIT SAME TO THE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT ON MAY 25, 2007. **THE MOTION CARRIED.**

**AMEND THE 2006-2008 CONSOLIDATED PLAN TO AUTHORIZE USE OF BLOCK GRANT FUNDS, WHEN APPROPRIATE, FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES**

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION – MOTION**

A MOTION WAS MADE BY GIELEGHEM, SUPPORTED BY DUZYJ, TO RECOMMEND THAT THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AMEND THE 2006-2008 CONSOLIDATED PLAN TO AUTHORIZE USE OF BLOCK GRANT FUNDS, WHEN APPROPRIATE, FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES. **THE MOTION CARRIED.**

**APPROVE 2007 ANNUAL REPORT FOR POSTING ON THE COUNTY WEBSITE**

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION – MOTION**

A MOTION WAS MADE BY DiMARIA, SUPPORTED BY BROWN, TO RECOMMEND THAT THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS APPROVE THE 2007 ANNUAL REPORT FOR POSTING ON THE COUNTY WEBSITE.

Mr. Cassin indicated that there were a few grammatical corrections and minor changes that will be corrected. He informed commissioners that if they find any changes to please contact his department before the Full Board meeting.

Chair Vosburg called for a vote on the motion and **THE MOTION CARRIED.**

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES REPORT**

Mr. Cassin spoke about his department's increased activities in industrial and manufacturing attraction. Key topics covered included: SAE Show, the upcoming Canadian Auto Parts Show, and Michigan State University Osteopathic School.

### **MOTION**

A motion was made by Mijac, supported by Duzyj, to receive and file the Economic Development activities update verbal report. **The Motion Carried.**

Chair Vosburg indicated that the committee would now go back to items #6, #7, and #8. There were no objections.

### **RECOGNITION OF PRIMARY INSURANCE AGENCY GROUP, LLC AS THE MACOMB COUNTY SBTDC 2006 SMALL BUSINESS OF THE YEAR**

Commissioner David Flynn presented Mr. George Gjokaj with a resolution on behalf of the Board. Mr. Gjokaj thanked the Planning and Economic Development Department for being instrumental in getting his business up and running.

### **REPORT ON MACOMB COUNTY SBTDC NxLEVEL ENTREPRENEURIAL PLANNING CLASS**

Mr. Morandini spoke about the recently held NxLevel Entrepreneurial Training Program. The cost of the program was \$250 (\$200 refunded to all who complete the series and submit a business plan). Thirteen companies actively participated in the class. This program was supported by two financial institutions Paramount Bank and National City Bank.

He introduced Mr. Jeffery Sugg, President, Paramount Bank who gave a brief explanation of why they have supported the program. Mr. Morandini noted that Paramount Bank committed a loan officer to come and teach two of the 12 sessions on financing. Also, Mr. Sugg was their keynote speaker at the graduation that was held at the Warren Community Center.

He introduced Ms. Sue Ellen Parks who attended the class. Ms. Parks spoke about the knowledge that she gained from attending the 12-week series. She has been in business 13 years.

### **MOTION**

A motion was made by Duzyj, supported by Rengert, to receive and file the report on the Macomb County SBTDC NxLevel Entrepreneurial Planning Class. **The Motion Carried.**

**AUTHORIZE CONTINUATION OF MACOMB COUNTY SBTDC PROGRAM**

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION – MOTION**

A MOTION WAS MADE BY RENGERT, SUPPORTED BY HAGGERTY, TO RECOMMEND THAT THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AUTHORIZE THE MACOMB COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TO CONTINUE THE SMALL BUSINESS & TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT CENTER PROGRAM AND RENEW THE AGREEMENT WITH THE MICHIGAN SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER AT GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONTINUING TO PROVIDE BUSINESS ASSISTANCE SERVICES TO MACOMB COUNTY COMPANIES AND RESIDENTS. **THE MOTION CARRIED.**

**PUBLIC HEARING ON MACOMB COUNTY SOLID WASTE PLAN AMENDMENTS**

**MOTION**

A motion was made by Gieleghem, supported by Rengert, to open the public hearing. **The Motion Carried.**

Ms. Smith gave a brief overview of the process and explained what will happen after today's public hearing.

Tom Horton, Government Affairs Manager for Waste Management of Michigan and Pine Tree Acres Landfill, 22662 Shadow Glen, Farmington Hills, MI

Mr. Horton distributed a map (layout) of Pine Tree Acres, Inc. He thought there was confusion about the amendment process and the amendment itself. The plan and agreement that they have with the host community Lenox Township calls for an 840 acre landfill. In the County Plan -- they have 568 acres that is in the County Plan. He explained the reason the additional property is being put into the plan. They arrived at a smaller landfill of 755 acres and that would be the maximum size of that site going forward during the timeframe of this agreement.

Christy McGillivray, 19 Hollywood Court, Mount Clemens

Ms. McGillivray works for Clean Water Action. She thought the expansion is simply going to mean more Canadian trash. She encouraged the Board to make sure this expansion is not agreed upon.

Eugene Chownyk, 19004 Birmingham Street, Roseville

Mr. Chownyk stated that his wife and other family members could not attend this morning's

public hearing since his wife had to work a poll and the rest had to work to make a living. But, they are all opposed to this. He suggested that the Board have a meeting when all constituents can come in and say something.

Judy Strong, 20054 15 Mile, Clinton Township

Ms. Strong agreed that the Board needs to have a public hearing to accommodate those who work. This solution does not assist in limiting the amount of trash. Capacity is another issue that Waste Management just raised.

Guy Kebbe, Public Works Director, City of Sterling Heights, 40555 Utica Road, Sterling Heights, MI

Mr. Kebbe said that the City of Sterling Heights agrees with many of the goals and objectives identified in the current Solid Waste Management Plan, but the city does not agree with the Plan, not including an approvable siting process and criteria for additional solid waste disposal facilities. The City of Sterling Heights believes that a competitive solid waste industry is in the best interest of its citizens, as well as the vast majority of Macomb County residents. Accordingly, the proposed amendments to the Solid Waste Management Plan would be unacceptable, unless the Plan was amended to include approvable siting processes for additional solid waste disposal facilities in the County of Macomb.

John Stewart (representing a concerned citizen), 22011 10 Mile Road, St. Clair Shores, MI

Mr. Stewart thought that this proposal is terrible.

Robert Gordon, 205½ North Main Street, Ann Arbor

Mr. Gordon was here on behalf of Clean Water Action. They have over 170,000 members in Michigan who are uniformly against landfill expansion. He felt there has to be limits on the expansion of landfills.

Heather Major, 63 Welts, Mount Clemens

Ms. Major spoke against the expansion of Pine Tree Acres.

Mary Beth Paisley, 58511 Frost, Lenox Township

Ms. Paisley spoke on behalf of her neighbors who could not be here, since they are working. She spoke against the expansion of Pine Tree Acres. She is on a Citizens Committee that meets monthly at Pine Tree Acres. She spoke about the rumbling of the trucks, the hundreds and hundreds of flying rats, the maundering coyotes, and about the stench that was in the air last night while she was at the township meeting.

Mickey Ludeman, 59400 Frost Road, Lenox Township

Ms. Ludeman has been involved in this since day one. She is also on the committee. If this expansion goes through, this will abut people's homes on County Line. This expansion now will come within less than one-half mile of her home. She has been on that site and has taken many, many pictures. Their hostility is not toward the people that they meet with. She would like to see a meeting held at Macomb Community College. She felt a lot of people would show up and voice their opinion and tell commissioners many, many horror stories.

Linda Pidutti, 37649 Charter Oaks, Clinton Township

Ms. Pidutti said if the voice of the people is that the people do not want this, that is where the Board's loyalty should be. She expressed concern about future clean-up costs.

Jennifer Larosa, 98 Lincoln, Mount Clemens, MI

Ms. Larosa spoke against the landfill expansion. She agreed that there should be another public hearing, so more voices can be heard.

Angel Smith, 35960 Kelly Road, Clinton Township

Ms. Smith is vehemently opposed to this expansion of the landfill. She noticed quite a few empty commissioner seats and was disappointed that they were not in attendance.

Fred Hambleton, 322 Old North Woodward, Birmingham, MI

Mr. Hambleton works in the waste business both in the USA and in Canada. It is unfortunate that everybody happily puts their trash at the bottom of their driveway every week, yet nobody wants to pay \$50 a month instead of \$10 a month for that service, so that we can have highly sophisticated waste disposal systems. This is not a county issue, this is a state planning and operations issue. There are three very large landfills in Genesee County, none of which take anything close to the amount of material Pine Tree takes. He supports that amendment which nobody raised yet, which is to make sure that you are able to export waste to Genesee County. He spoke about a significant amount of Michigan hazardous waste going to Canada. He explained that every truck that comes across the bridge has 40,000 tons of trash in it and the cost to that truck to bring it here is \$1,000. He felt by increasing the price to \$7.50, it will not stop it from coming. The problem with the waste from Canada -- it is all about trucking costs, it has nothing to do with disposal costs. It is not all Waste Management's fault, it is everybody's fault. For the record, he does own and operate landfills here in Michigan.

Commissioner Ed Bruley, 38157 Radde, Clinton Township, MI 48036

Commissioner Bruley felt that all public hearings need to be held in the evening when most of the public would be available. He intends to introduce a resolution to the appropriate committee, so that hearings are held in the evening, unless otherwise specifically voted by the Board to be held at any other time. He found out that the list of questions and answers that were provided in committee packets relating to the landfill was prepared by a private entity. He raised this issue yesterday at the Legislative and Administrative Services Committee meeting. He intends to introduce a resolution establishing a policy identifying the source of information disseminated by county departments.

Commissioner Paul Gielegem, 38134 Sarnette, Clinton Township 48036

Commissioner Gielegem specifically responded to some of the comments that were raised by the gentleman that owns a landfill. He spoke to the issue of hazardous waste being trucked over to Canada, the huge volume of municipal solid waste coming to Michigan from Canada, the significantly reduced volume of hazardous waste that is being shipped to the facility near Sarnia, and to the issue of regionalization of the facilities. He firmly believes that every state and every Canadian province needs to come up with their own solutions to meet their own waste needs. We have excess capacity; we do not need more capacity.

Commissioner Phillip DiMaria, 23754 Roxana, Eastpointe, MI 48021

Commissioner DiMaria recalled stating before when the Board had discussed this Host Agreement that to increase the size of the landfill by suggesting it will decrease the amount of trash we bring in is truly a misnomer. He agreed that public hearings should be in the evening or at least at a time when more people can participate and have a voice in their governmental process.

Commissioner Keith Rengert, 34080 Armada Ridge Road, Richmond, MI 48062

Commissioner Rengert gave a little history on Pine Tree Acres landfill regarding what he calls Plan B. We lost, as of probably today, 16 years of capacity due to Canadian waste. Right now, there is over 1.5 million ton of Canadian waste going into that landfill site. We have over 80% Canadian waste going in there everyday into that landfill site and we have no control other than negotiate. He is on the Solid Waste Planning Committee and is also chair of that committee and they do welcome comments. There are 27 communities -- two-thirds of them will have to pass this, recognizing the additional area within the Lenox Township site. He noted that there are three distinctive parts to the amendment. He spoke about the numerous meetings that the Solid Waste Planning Committee has held.

Commissioner Brian Brdak, 51696 Promenade Lane, New Baltimore, MI 48047

Commissioner Brdak distributed several handouts, which included a map (detailed layout) of Pine Tree Acres, Inc. He agreed that there should be a public hearing in the evening. He has always advocated for the fact that he believes that we need federal legislation that allows our local communities to make these decisions and not someone else. The big question that never seems to be answered is capacity. What exactly is the capacity and how do you define capacity. It seems to be a number that continually changes. He read some quotes from some individuals over the years that he has gathered that speak to capacity. His point here is, do we need this extra 187 acres today or don't we.

He referred to the map which Mr. Horton distributed and compared it to the map that he distributed. The map is quite different from the map that commissioners received this morning from Waste Management. Commissioner Brdak's map was much more specific in terms of which part of the area within the footprint of the landfill is being used currently and which isn't. He referred to his map and explained it in great detail. There is all this mystery about how much space is actually out there, under our current operating agreement. He figured there is about 18 years of space, which is under the old agreement, not including the space that Waste Management is asking the Board to grant permission for. He thinks that people have been clearly scared into believing that there is going to be another landfill sited in our community. He felt there is space that Waste Management can ask for in the future under the old agreement.

Commissioner Sarah Roberts, 23148 Francis, St. Clair Shores, MI 48082

Commissioner Roberts wanted to go on record again as being against these proposed amendments. She expressed concern about the length of the agreement. Additionally, she has seen nothing about reducing the amount of trash going into our landfill space to preserve our capacity or at the same time increasing recycling.

Commissioner Leonard Haggerty, 18710 Rockport Drive, Roseville, MI 48066

Commissioner Haggerty agreed that public hearings should be held in the evening.

### **MOTION**

A motion was made by Duzyj, supported by Rengert, to close the public hearing. **The Motion Carried.**

A lengthy discussion ensued with Ms. Smith about the process that would be taken after the 90-day public comment period which goes through Friday, July 6th. Ms. Smith explained the various ways that the public can submit their comments during this period. She noted that if the Board of Commissioners passes the final amendment on July 26<sup>th</sup>,

67% of the communities (18 of the 27) have to approve the amendment also for it to go to the state. She further noted that there are three separate parts to the amendment that could be changed.

Commissioner DeSaele suggested asking the local communities to forward any comments made at their meeting to the Board.

Mr. Hambleton wanted to clarify that there are more than one amendment to the County Plan and his understanding of the process is that the Board can pass those individually.

**RECEIVE AND FILE PUBLIC HEARING COMMENTS ON MACOMB COUNTY SOLID WASTE PLAN AMENDMENTS**

**MOTION**

A motion was made by Haggerty, supported by Rengert, to receive and file Public Hearing comments on the Macomb County Solid Waste Plan Amendments. **The Motion Carried.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION**

A motion was made by Duzyj, supported by Haggerty, to adjourn the meeting at 11 a.m. **The Motion Carried.**

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**Denise M. Jacks  
Committee Reporter**